

June 12, 2025

To: All Pioneer Manor residents, families, substitute decision-makers and staff

Introducing Enhanced Safety Measures for Certain Medications

Pioneer Manor is updating its approach to handling potentially hazardous medications. These medications have been in use at the Home for a long time, and now, based on guidance from the Ministry of Labour, additional precautions will be introduced to further protect nurses, personal care staff and others from unnecessary exposure.

What Residents and Families may Notice:

- Small signs outside the rooms of residents prescribed these medications (The signs will not specify the medication.)
- New disposal bins
- Staff wearing protective gear such as gloves, gowns or masks, depending on the task

What are These Medications?

Some commonly used medications – including cancer treatment drugs, hormonal therapies and certain psychiatric medications – can have effects beyond their intended use. In some cases, direct contact with these medications or body fluids from those taking them may pose a minor risk to others.

These medications are considered hazardous due to their potential to:

- Affect fertility
- Impact genetic material
- Cause developmental changes in unborn babies
- Lead to long-term organ damage
- Induce cancer

It's important to note that these risks to others are minimal compared to the benefits they provide to residents. People take prescription medications every day, balancing effectiveness with potential side effects. The updated process will take effect over the next week.

Food Services Subcommittee Meeting

The purpose of the Food Services subcommittee is to review and discuss opportunities to enhance food quality and pleasurable dining. Membership includes staff, residents and families. If you are interested in participating, please notify the manager of Food and Nutrition Services at extension 3224 or by email at jennifer.santeresmith@greatersudbury.ca. The next meeting is Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 11 a.m. in the 2nd floor leisure room. You are welcome to join us.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Aaron Archibald
Director, Long-Term Care Services

c.c.: Councillor René Lapierre, Chair, Community & Emergency Services Committee
Shari Lichterman, Chief Administrative Officer
Brendan Adair, Acting General Manager, Community Development
Dr. Maurice St. Martin, Medical Director
Managers of Resident Care
Dianna Foster, Family Council
Residents' Council Leadership Team